

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) In a universal joint assembly having a housing, ~~[[and]]~~ a universal joint in a chamber within the housing, and a boot at one end of the universal joint assembly, the ~~improvement assembly~~ comprising:

a diaphragm seal in said housing forming a single wall of said chamber,

said diaphragm seal being supported by a supporting ring,

said supporting ring and diaphragm seal being located at the end of the universal joint assembly opposite the boot,

said chamber being substantially sealed to exclude entry of foreign elements,
and

said diaphragm seal being flexible to allow for expansion and contraction of said chamber to prevent any substantial increase or decrease in the pressure within the chamber.

2. (original) In the universal joint of claim 1, wherein said diaphragm seal separates said chamber from a vent space, and further including a vent hole from said vent space.

3. (original) In the universal joint of claim 1, wherein said diaphragm seal includes a sinuous sheet of flexible material.

4. (original) In the universal joint of claim 1, wherein said diaphragm seal includes a flexible sheet having a plurality of concentric annular, circular portions of progressively increasing radius measured from a centerpoint of the sheet, alternate circular portions having a generally U-shaped cross-section opening toward chamber and the remaining circular portions having a generally U-shaped cross-section opening away from said chamber.

5. (original) In the universal joint of Claim 4, wherein said diaphragm seal separates said chamber from a vent space, and further including a vent hole from said vent space.

6. (original) In the universal joint of claim 5, wherein said flexible sheet is made of an elastomeric material.

7. (withdrawn) In the universal joint of claim 1, wherein said diaphragm seal includes a flat sheet of flexible, stretchable elastomeric material. 8.

8. (withdrawn) In the universal joint of claim 7, wherein said diaphragm seal separates said chamber from a vent space, and further including a vent hole from said vent space

9. (new) In the universal joint of claim 2 wherein said vent space and vent hole enable the diaphragm seal to flex inwardly or outwardly more freely.

10. (new) In a universal joint assembly having a housing and a universal joint in a chamber within the housing, the assembly comprising:

a diaphragm seal in said housing forming a wall of said chamber,
said chamber being substantially sealed to exclude entry of foreign elements,
said diaphragm seal being flexible to allow for expansion and contraction of said chamber to prevent any substantial increase or decrease in the pressure within the chamber,
and

said diaphragm seal including a flexible sheet having a plurality of concentric annular, circular portions of progressively increasing radius, alternate circular portions having a generally U-shaped cross-section opening toward chamber and remaining circular portions having a generally U-shaped cross-section opening away from said chamber.

11. (new) The universal joint assembly of claim 10 wherein said diaphragm seal separates said chamber from a vent space, and further including a vent hole from said vent space.

12. (new) The universal joint assembly of claim 10 wherein said diaphragm seal includes a sinuous sheet of flexible material.

13. (new) The universal joint assembly of claim 10 wherein said diaphragm seal includes a sinuous sheet of elastomeric material.

14. (new) The universal joint assembly of claim 11 wherein said vent space and vent hole enable the diaphragm seal to flex inwardly or outwardly more freely.